

## The Path to Revolution, 1763–1776

For homework, research the events leading to the American Revolution, and complete the chart. Start at the bottom to work toward the Revolution. Explain why both 1776 and 1763 were turning points in American history.

### Part A.

#### Significance of 1776 as a Turning Point:

British action	Rationale	Colonial reaction	Rationale
Lexington and Concord		Paine's "Common Sense"	
Coercive or "Intolerable" Acts		boycott, convening First Continental Congress	
Quartering Act 1774		protest in assemblies	
Tea Act		protest, Boston Tea Party, boycott	
Townshend duties		boycotts, petitions, newspaper attacks	

British action	Rationale	Colonial reaction	Rationale
Repeal of Stamp Act and passage of Declaratory Act		rejoicing over repeal; ignoring Declaratory Act	
Stamp Act		petitions, boycott, violence	
Currency Act		smoldering resentment	
Sugar Act		Boston experimented with boycotts	
Proclamation of 1763		resentment and failure to comply	

**Part B.**

**Significance of 1763 as a Turning Point:**

From your readings and your completed chart, answer the following questions:

1. "The Americans have made a discovery, or think they have made a discovery, that we mean to oppress them; we have made a discovery, or think we have made a discovery, that they intend to rise up in rebellion against us. We know not how to advance; they know not how to retreat." *Edmund Burke*<sup>1</sup>
  - a. What kind of "advance" or adjustment might the British have made to halt the escalation of the colonial rebellion?
  - b. What kind of retreat would the colonists have had to make to be acceptable to Britain?
2. How does your completed chart help to explain the lack of meaningful compromise between Britain and the colonies in the years between 1763 and 1776?
3. Was the dominant concern of the colonists economic or political? Explain your answer.
4. From your readings and your chart, what role do you believe each of the following played in producing wide-based support for independence in the colonies?
  - a. Inept British officials, such as Charles Townshend or George Grenville

<sup>1</sup> Stephan Thernstrom, *A History of the American People*, Vol. 1 (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984), 144.

- b. Dedicated radicals, such as Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry
  - c. Responsible moderates, such as John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson
5. How did each of the following affect relations between the mother country and the colonies?
- a. Timing of new regulations
  - b. Distance and lack of an easy means of communication
  - c. Repeals of the Stamp Act and most Townshend duties
6. Now try to write your own one or two sentence thesis on the causes of the American Revolution.